

MAY 3 1955

Dear Alain:

I was astonished to find your letter of January 23, which I had mislaid meanwhile, and realize that so long a time had elapsed since receiving it, and during which I had failed to reply. Please forgive me, it is only the old story of excess preoccupation.

Even now, I have (at this moment) hardly time to answer; I am hoping we can have an easier summer and relax, although we are planning for a change to stay home the whole time. As we must have written you earlier we bought a house last fall at the edge of town, and very much enjoy it and the garden, despite the very considerable labor that attaches to this.

I was interested to hear your project on the basis of self-nonantigenicity. I suppose you are acquainted with the work that has been done here some years ago by Ray Owen on cattle fraternal twins, and more recently by Billingham on prenatal desensitization. ~~That~~ It is apparently sufficient that an antigen by present in the developing embryo or fetus to render it non-immunogenic later on, but the experimental basis for this notion is still somewhat limited. You will probably have also seen the work of the English authors (in Biochemical Journal)— I think MacFarlane, on the fate of homologous and heterologous proteins in the circulation.

We were very happy to have your reprints and to continue to exchange.

Your remark about Scientific American was somewhat mystifying— had you asked me to secure a subscription for you? Perhaps I misunderstood. There was also some trouble, as I remember, about your dues for the American Association of Immunologists. Was that ever straightened out? Do you wish me to continue paying them? I have then cancelled check from the treasurer, Dr. Sugg, for \$10, dated March 15, 1954. Since you gave me a check for \$24.39, you still have a credit of \$14.39, which I will be happy to carry or dispose of as you instruct. Just let me know your wishes.

Meanwhile, may I ask you a small favor— Lechevalier Ed. (12 rue de Tournon, VI^e) is advertising a copy of Delage, Y., 1895. (Their No. 924) at F. 900, which I would like to buy. Could you have them send it to me, and either have them bill me, or pay it yourself and let me owe it to you in addition to the \$14.39?

I hope everything otherwise goes well with you— if you will overlook our own shortcomings as correspondents, and write yourself anyhow, we shall be most grateful and interested to hear from you.

With ^{the} best from Esther and myself

Joshua Lederberg